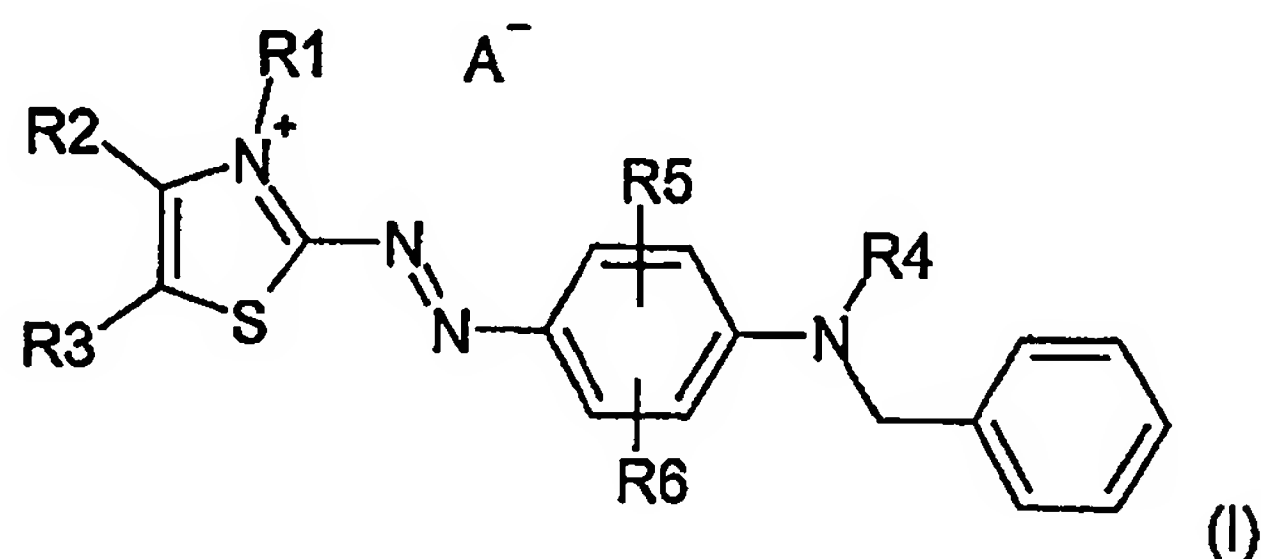


CLAIMS

1. (original) Agent for coloring keratin fibers, characterized in that it contains at least one thiazoliumazo dye of general formula (I)



wherein

R1 stands for a saturated or unsaturated (C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl group, a halogen atom-substituted (C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl group, a hydroxy-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl group, a (C₁-C₆)-alkoxy-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl group, an amino-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl group, a (C₁-C₆)-alkylamino-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl group, a di(C₁-C₆)-alkyl-amino-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl group, a cyano-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted benzyl group;

R2 and **R3** can be equal or different and independently of each other stand for hydrogen, a halogen atom, a saturated or unsaturated (C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl group, (C₁-C₁₂)-alkoxy group, a nitro group, an amino group, a (C₁-C₁₂)-alkylamino group, a di(C₁-C₁₂)-alkylamino group, a (C₁-C₁₂)-hydroxyalkylamino group, a di(C₁-C₁₂)-hydroxyalkylamino group, a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl group;

R4 stands for hydrogen, a saturated or unsaturated (C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl group, a halogen atom-substituted (C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl group, a hydroxy-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl group, an amino-(C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl group or a benzyl group;

R5 and **R6** can be equal or different and independently of each other stand for hydrogen, a halogen atom, a saturated or unsaturated (C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl group, a hydroxyl group, a (C₁-C₁₂)-alkoxy group, a cyano group, a nitro group, an amino group, a (C₁-C₁₂)-alkylamino group or a di(C₁-C₁₂)-alkylamino group, and

A⁻ stands for an anion of an organic or inorganic acid.

2. (original) Agent as defined in claim 1, characterized in that **R1** is a saturated or unsaturated (C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl group.
3. (original) Agent as defined in claim 2, characterized in that **R4** is a saturated or unsaturated (C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl group.
4. (currently amended) Agent as defined in ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that **A⁻** is a chloride, bro-mide, iodide, hydrogen sulfate, sulfate, toluenesulfonate, benzenesulfonate, monomethyl-sulfate, hexafluorophosphate, hexafluoroantimonate, tetrafluoroborate, tetraphenyborate, formate, acetate or propionate anion.
5. (currently amended) Agent as defined in ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that the compound of formula (I) is selected from among 3-methyl-2-{{4-[methyl(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl}-azo}thiazolium chloride, 3-methyl-2-{{4-[methyl(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl}azo}thiazoli-um bromide, 3-methyl-2-{{4-[methyl(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl}azo}thiazolium mono-methylsulfate, 3-methyl-2-{{4-[methyl(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl}azo}thiazolium ace-tate, 3,4-dimethyl-2-{{4-[methyl(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl}azo}thiazolium chloride, 3,4-dimethyl-2-{{4-[methyl(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl}azo}thiazolium bromide, 3,4-dime-thyl-2-{{4-[methyl(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl}azo}thiazolium monomethylsulfate, 3,4-di-methyl-2--{{4-[methyl(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl}azo}thiazolium acetate, 3,5-dimethyl-2-{{4-[methyl-(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl}azo}thiazolium chloride, 3,5-dimethyl-2-{{4-[methyl(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl}azo}thiazolium bromide, 3,5-dimethyl-2-{{4-[methyl-(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl}azo}thiazolium monomethylsulfate, 3,5-dimethyl-2-{{4-[me-thyl(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl}azo}thiazolium acetate, 3,4,5-trimethyl-2-{{4-[methyl-(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl}azo}thiazolium chloride, 3,4,5-trimethyl-2-{{4-[methyl(phe-nylmethyl)amino]phenyl}azo}thiazolium bromide, 3,4,5-trimethyl-2-{{4-[methyl(phenyl-methyl)amino]phenyl}azo}thiazolium monomethylsulfate, 3,4,5-trimethyl-2-{{4-[methyl-(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl}azo}thiazolium acetate,

5-bromo-3-methyl-2-[(4-[methyl-(phenylmethyl)amino]-phenyl]azo]thiazolium
 chloride, 5-bromo-3-methyl-2-[(4-[methyl-
 (phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl]azo]thiazolium bromide, 5-bromo-3-methyl-2-[(4-
 [methyl-(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl]azo]thiazolium monomethylsulfate, 5-
 bromo-3-methyl-2-[(4-[methyl(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl]azo]thiazolium acetate,
 5-methoxy-3-methyl-2-[(4-[methyl(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl]azo]thiazolium
 chloride, 5-methoxy-3-methyl-2-[(4-
 [methyl(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl]azo]thiazolium bromide, 5-methoxy-3-
 methyl-2-[(4-[methyl(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl]azo]thiazolium
 monomethylsulfate, 5-methoxy-3-methyl-2-[(4-
 [methyl(phenylmethyl)amino]phenyl]azo]thiazolium acetate, 2-{[4-[ethyl-
 (phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-3-methylthiazolium chloride, 2-{[4-
 [ethyl-
 (phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-3-methylthiazolium bromide, 2-{[4-
 [ethyl-(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-3-methylthiazolium
 monomethylsulfate, 2-{[4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-3-
 methylthiazolium acetate, 2-{[4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-
 3,4-dimethylthiazolium chloride, 2-{[4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-
 methylphenyl]azo}-3,4-dimethylthiazolium bromide, 2-{[4-
 [ethyl(phenylmethyl)ami-no]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-3,4-dimethylthiazolium
 monomethyl-
 sulfate, 2-{[4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-3,4-
 dimethylthiazolium
 acetate, 2-{[4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-3,5-
 dimethylthiazolium chloride, 2-{[4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-
 methylphenyl]azo}-3,5-dimethylthiazolium bromide, 2-{[4-
 [ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-3,5-dimethylthiazolium
 monomethylsulfate, 2-{[4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-3,5-
 dimethyl-thiazolium acetate, 2-{[4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-
 methylphenyl]azo}-3,4,5-trime-thylthiazolium chloride, 2-{[4-
 [ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-3,4,5-tri-methylthiazolium
 bromide, 2-{[4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-3,4,5-
 trimethylthiazolium monomethylsulfate, 2-{[4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-

methyl-phenyl]azo}-3,4,5-trimethylthiazolium acetate, 5-bromo-2-{{4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-3-methylthiazolium chloride, 5-bromo-2-{{4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-3-methylthiazolium bromide, 5-bromo-2-{{4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-3-methylthiazolium monomethylsulfate, 5-bromo-2-{{4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-3-methylthiazolium acetate, 2-{{4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-5-methoxy-3-methylthiazolium chloride, 2-{{4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-5-methoxy-3-methylthiazolium bromide, 2-{{4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-5-methoxy-3-methylthiazolium monomethylsulfate and 2-{{4-[ethyl(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-methylphenyl]azo}-5-methoxy-3-methylthiazolium acetate.

6. (currently amended) Agent as defined in ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that it contains the compound of formula (I) in an amount from 0.01 to 10 weight percent.

7. (currently amended) Agent as defined in ~~one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, characterized in that additionally it contains another direct dye.

8. (original) Agent as defined in claim 7, characterized in that it contains the additional direct dye in a total amount from 0.01 to 4 weight percent.

9. (currently amended) Agent as defined in ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, characterized in that it has a pH from 3 to 10.

10. (currently amended) Agent as defined in ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, characterized in that additionally it contains oxidation dye precursors and that before use it is mixed with an oxidant.

11. (currently amended) Agent as defined in ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1,

characterized in that it contains at least one natural polymer, synthetic polymer or modified polymer of natural origin commonly used in cosmetic agents and that it is in the form of a tinting fixative or dye fixative.

12. (currently amended) Agent as defined in ~~one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, characterized in that it is a hair colorant.